

## LEAGUE ELECTS ITS NEW OFFICERS

Subjects of Interest to Municipalities Discussed by Delegates.

NEXT YEAR AT CAPE CHARLES

Addresses on "An Honest Ballot" Feature of Closing Day.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Charlottesville, Va., October 7.—The League of Virginia Municipalities closed this afternoon, to meet next year at Cape Charles, at a date to be fixed by the Mayor of that town. Officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: President, H. E. Steed, of Norfolk; Vice-Presidents, Mayor J. Davis Reed, of Portsmouth; Mayor Maryus Jones, of Newport News; J. Frank East, of Norfolk; Secretary and Treasurer, L. C. Brinson, of Portsmouth.

Charles E. Ashburner, of Staunton, retiring president of the association, spoke on the "Citizen's Duty in Municipal Government," and Lieutenant C. P. Shaw, of Norfolk, showed why the commission plan succeeds. Health Commissioner Ennion G. Williams told of the health work in the State, and Dr. Roy K. Flannagan, of Charlottesville, spoke on "The Diseases a Municipality Can Control and How to Do It." "Municipal Taxation" was the subject of a paper by Mayor Maryus Jones, of Newport News. R. W. Holminger, president of the Charlottesville council, replied to an address delivered last night by Mayor E. Patton, in which the latter discussed the faults and failures of government by council.

"An Honest Ballot."

The feature of the closing day of the fifth annual convention of the League of Virginia Municipalities was the address by Barton Myers, of Norfolk, on the subject, "The Fundamental Requirement—An Honest Ballot."

The Mother of States and Presidents is not taking the position in national councils to which her brilliant past entitles her, said Mr. Myers. Government in State, cities and counties is expensive, inefficient and not abreast of the most progressive States. With honorable exceptions, mediocrity characterizes her representatives in Congress, in Legislature and in executive offices, while commercial and industrial corporations have attracted her ablest men. There is apathy amongst voters; large numbers not qualified to vote; corruption in elections; domination of political bosses; indifference to economic questions; official inefficiency and expensive administration.

The people of Virginia are generally honest, but their voice is throttled and they are in large measure disfranchised through the operation of imperfect laws and unregulated primaries, administered by minions of a Democratic machine, which, like an octopus, has extended its tentacles into the remotest corners of the Commonwealth and dictates State and municipal legislation. Party organization is essential; the more thorough it is, the more efficient. But the machine is a faction within the party, a faction embracing office-holders, the liquor interests and certain other classes seeking immunity for violations of law. These make common cause, and through local executive committees appoint judges of primaries, and so manipulate them for personal ends, and not for public welfare, as to cause widespread distrust. The people are burdened with fees for services imperfectly rendered; laws are generally poorly administered, and apathy pervades the electorate.

Referring to fraudulent elections, Mr. Myers said: "It is vain to contend that elections are honest in many sections of the State; the whole State is involved. Frauds perpetrated in one congressional district, or in one election may decide the election and in effect disfranchise a majority of the voters of the entire State. Aye, more, theft in one precinct may nullify the vote of the majority in the Senate and the State press has recently denounced the shocking conditions disclosed in the Second District primary, but it seems probable that the Second District is no worse than some others, where guilt has not been exposed only because there has been no investigation. To the credit of the Second District be it said that it is the first to have demanded a 'house cleaning.' The responsibility rests on the entire State for its failure to require legislative enactment of an adequate primary election law and for the existing condition in relation thereto.

"It is evident there should be an education of the people," he continued, "through the press of the State and by all other possible means; enactment of an adequate primary law, publication of lists of those who vote, mandatory purging of registration books at regular intervals, abolition of poll taxes, a prerequisite to voting, abolition of the payment of fees to officers in the larger cities and counties, which could be designated as of the first class, and covered by a general law.

"Need of New Primary Law."  
"It is of very great importance to the State to enact such a primary election law as will inspire confidence and will bring out and properly deliver the vote. Judges and clerks in primaries should be selected, not by an executive com-

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mittee which represents a faction, but by an electoral board named by the candidates. The time to inaugurate effort for a primary law is now, and not after the Legislature is elected. A commission of business men and lawyers should now be formed to draft a primary law, and such constitutional and statutory amendments in relation to payment of poll taxes, registration and elections as are necessary to harmonize and make effective the remedied sought in the interests of all the people of a faction only. The law so drafted should be published and made an issue in every district, and only such men be sent to the Legislature as are in full sympathy with it. Unless this is done, present agitation will amount to nothing; the machine will elect its subservient representatives, whose efforts will be 'now not to do it' by enacting a worthless law and making confusion worse confounded.

Would Abolish Fee System.  
"The fee system should be abolished in all cities exceeding a given population and in all of the larger counties. In the smaller towns and counties the emoluments of fee offices are not excessive enough to work harm, and the omission of small towns and counties will eliminate much opposition to a change in the present law. The excessive emoluments of offices in the large cities create a set of political 'bosses,' whose duties are performed by salaried deputies, while the official heads have time and money which belong to their constituents, but which they expend in a scheme for perpetuation of their tenure of office.

"There is reason for congratulation on the purity and ability of the judiciary of the State, but the functions of a judge of election may involve more momentous consequences than those of a judge on the bench. The office should be regarded as equally sacred and its emolument as pure. As a matter of fact, a judge may owe his position on the bench to the conduct or misconduct of some judge of election for members of the Legislature."

## WARNING AGAINST CERTAIN STOCKS

Virginians Being Asked to Buy Shares in Irresponsible Concerns.

For the protection of the people of Virginia, Insurance Commissioner Joseph B. Wren, today issued a warning against a flood of irresponsible insurance corporations whose agents are endeavoring to sell stock in this State. During the past three or four years many of these concerns have been developed by promotion methods in the Middle West, Southern and Pacific States.

This scheme, which is described by Superintendent Hotchkiss, of the New York Insurance Department, as a "new form of insurance fraud," is being brought into Virginia, reports coming to the Bureau of Insurance indicating that it is rather widespread.

The New York Department, under a recent law, is permitted to examine such concerns in the same manner as a sort of insurance companies, and has just been conducting a series of examinations, the results of which will soon be made public. While not very many concerns exist in that State, the following companies have been examined:

United Insurance Company of Arizona and its subsidiary, the United Fire Insurance Company of New York; Protective Holding Corporation and subsidiary, the Protective Fire Insurance Company, both of New York; Manhattan Funding Company and subsidiary, Life and Casualty Company of New York; Fire Securities Company of New York and subsidiary, the First National Fire Insurance Company of Pennsylvania; Trinity Finance Company, of New York; Finance Company of Maine; Independent Surety Company of New York; Government Surety and Casualty Company of New York; Reliable Fire Insurance Company of Indianapolis; Columbia Guaranty Corporation.

These have also been developed as to the three two corporations—Consolidated Life Securities Company and subsidiary, the Consolidated Life Insurance Company, both understood to be Illinois corporations, and the National Assurance Company of Wilmington, Del.

In view of the facts developed in this investigation, the New York Insurance Department has refused to admit into that State any company promoted by certain means which are designed to enrich the professional promoter and to the great injury of the investing public.

Details of Scheme.  
The plan of most of the companies investigated are essentially the same and usually almost identical with those used in other States. A stock selling company is first organized, whose only asset is usually the cash representing the stock.

Elaborate literature is issued, making enthusiastic estimates as to probable profits, based often on false statements of actual gains by existing companies. Then comes the crowd of recruiting salesmen, who hawk their wares from house to house upon representations sometimes based on the literature and sometimes on their imaginations, at an expense to the ultimate stockholder of from 25 to 40 percent, a process which is somewhat varied in one or two companies by use of the mails, which decreases the cost. Then comes the time when the entire control of an insurance company is formed as a corollary will be vested in the promoting company as an agency corporation, which contracts in several cases, says Superintendent Hotchkiss, "seen to have been made without regard to the ability of the promoters as insurance managers, and in some instances are apparently entered into that the same may be sold for the benefit of the promoters themselves."

If the plan ultimately succeeds after paying an enormous cost for promotion the "investor finds himself but a

minute factor in a company usually controlled by the man who conceived it, and who is, in most cases, only too willing to sell out that control to the highest bidder, without regard to the latter's integrity or insurance experience."

## TRAIN DERAILED AND 21 INJURED

Second Wreck Within Week on Murphy Branch of Southern.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Asheville, N. C., October 7.—Passenger train No. 10, on the Murphy branch of the Southern Railway, was wrecked about two miles south of Governor's Island late this afternoon, three coaches leaving the track and turning over down an embankment.

Official reports from the scene of the wreck state that no one was killed, but twenty-one were injured, two of them so seriously that they will probably die. No information could be obtained as to the cause of the wreck or the circumstances attending it. The list of the injured, furnished by the company, follows:

W. R. Pulliam, Cherokee, N. C., seriously injured, hurt on body and hand cut; C. W. Waynesville, N. C., seriously injured; F. H. Hughes, Nantahala, N. C., cut on forehead and hip bruised; D. W. Chaslin, Bryson City, back hurt; R. H. yrd. Almond, N. C., arm and hip injured; E. A. Ray, Stony, N. C., arm and hip injured; Mrs. George W. Bryson, Canton, cut on head; Helen Angel, Elia, N. C., head bruised and finger cut; Lloyd Owl, Cherokee, N. C., hip injured; Mannet Weeks, Whitler, N. C., chest injured; Sevier Skitty, Cherokee, N. C., shoulder injured; C. W. Denning, Bryson City, shoulder and leg badly bruised; Murphy, N. C., cut on face; Beulah Powell, Elia, N. C., (colored), leg cut; Cary Thomas, Bryson City, shoulder and leg badly bruised; Richard Watts, Wilmot, N. C., leg and ankle hurt; W. B. Nelson, baggage-man, hurt in chest; W. B. Blanton, flagman, leg hurt; Josh Love, a porter, leg hurt; W. W. Guder, mail clerk, Asheville, leg hurt.

The wrecking train, accompanied by the company surgeon, left here about 6 o'clock for the scene of the wreck.

A peculiar feature of the wreck is that just one week ago, at almost the same hour, and only a few miles distant from the same place, the same train was derailed, three coaches turning over and rolling down a fifteen-foot embankment. Nine passengers were injured in that wreck, some of them seriously, but there were no fatalities.

## MAN SHOTS TWO AND ENDS OWN LIFE

His Fifteen-Year-Old Wife Killed and Mother-in-Law Mortally Wounded.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Millboro, Va., October 7.—A rural district of Bath county, five miles from this place, was yesterday evening the scene of a horrible attempt at double murder and suicide. The fifteen-year-old wife of Ed Mace having left her husband but a short time ago, on account of brutal treatment, returned recently to her home, and found her father-in-law, as Mace learned of her presence, he armed himself with a single-barrel breech-loading shotgun and a full supply of ammunition, secreted himself close to the roadside along which his wife and mother-in-law were soon to pass, and as they came alone he sprang from the underbrush, and with abuse and an oath preceding the remark, "I will fix you both," shot to death his wife, who held her sleeping infant in her arms. Reloading the smoking weapon, he immediately turned it upon the mother-in-law, who died instantly, the load tearing a ghastly wound in her left side, from which it is thought she will die. Reloading a third time, he placed the death-dealing weapon against his body, pulled the trigger and ended his own miserable life.

There were eyewitnesses to the tragedy, but the shots and screams were heard from a nearby farm house. The occupants of the house, who were late to be of any assistance, only to find the lifeless bodies of husband and wife and the mortally wounded form of the mother-in-law, who died instantly, by accident or design, was unhurt, and still lay peacefully asleep in the cold embrace of his lifeless mother.

Challenge to Republican Candidate.  
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Salisbury, N. C., October 7.—Through Hayden Clement, Esq., of Salisbury, chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee for the Eleventh District, Representative Chas. H. Cowles has been invited to meet the Democratic nominees, R. Doughton at any of his appointments in the district for a joint discussion. The invitation is made in something like a challenge and it is not known how it will be treated by the Republican Congressman.

POLICE STOP ELOPERS.

Plans of Young Couple Frustrated by Girl's Mother.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Roanoke, Va., October 7.—The plans of Charles Terry, aged twenty-two, and pretty Miss Amy Minnick, aged sixteen, both of Roanoke, were shattered by the mother's edict today, when she when they eloped and brought the girl home from Salem. The couple went from here to Salem during the evening, and intended taking a westbound train at that point for Bristol. Several persons, however, reap a rich harvest of gold by marrying runaway lovers. The mother telephoned the Salem police to arrest the daughter. This was done.



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News of South Richmond

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About 5 o'clock Thursday afternoon while the crowd at the Fair Grounds was at its greatest Ralph Puckett, the nine-year-old son of Alice Puckett, an electrician, of 123 East Ninth Street, South Richmond, became lost in the huge throng, and was missing for several hours. Mr. Puckett accompanied Ralph and another boy, who was fair, was showing the youngsters the sights. For hours Mr. Puckett forced his way through Wahoo Lane inquiring for his son, and about a o'clock the crowd was found. Although jostled by thousands of people he had luckily sought for his father. Amid the uproar of the crowd a little voice, full of restored happiness, sang out: "There's papa." Father and son clasped each other and left the grounds.

When the news of the loss of the boy reached the community scores of friends gathered around the Puckett home and remained until the three returned home safely.

Returns to Hospital.  
After many years of periodical insanity a large part of which she had spent in institutions, Miss Flora Snead, daughter of Mrs. E. M. Southern, of 127 East Ninth Street, returned home from Williamsburg about two weeks ago seemingly cured, only to suddenly become irrational last Saturday night. A few minutes prior to the release she was a calm and sensible woman, but coming actions were aroused. In a flash she jumped up, her face and manner showing her a complete change of mind. She was overpowered, however, before any harm was accomplished.

The case of Miss Snead is considered most pitiful. She is strikingly handsome, and when in a normal condition, affable and charming. She has frequently run away from home and has caused much anxiety. When unbalanced she dislikes her home surroundings, and acquires a mania for wandering. Not many weeks ago she wandered away and could not be persuaded to return home. After some persuasion she has consented to return to Williamsburg, and returned with guards there yesterday. In the last few days she had become more cheerful and showed no returning sign of insanity.

Case Dismissed.  
W. L. Prentiss was dismissed yesterday morning in the Police Court on the charge of not having proper lights on his auto when he was stopped by the police. The judge, saying that the jarring had caused the light in the rear of his machine to go out, and he was not responsible for it, it is impossible to prevent this light being put out, and that the owner is not necessarily reprehensible since it is rather hard to him to have to stop frequently and examine his rear lights.

Wedding.  
Thursday evening about 8 o'clock in the parlor of Mrs. John Taylor's home, Miss Mattie Orin Butler, daughter of Mr. H. C. Prentiss, pastor of the Central Methodist Church, performed the ceremony. The bride, who was in white and wore a train of white tulle, was carried by her maid, and was dressed in white, and carried a shower of white roses and lilies of the valley. Mr. and Mrs. Gentry were at home to friends, 123 Hull Street, to-morrow.

Good Alfalfa Yield.  
Colonel James H. Ballou, of Chesterfield county, the well known agriculturist and advocate of alfalfa growing, is standing first in the Southern Stock Corporation prize of \$500 offered for the best acre, the quality being of the greatest consideration. He is first in the grading, and is 40 per cent. win-

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